

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO 2006-2007 GRAND JURY REPORTS (District: All))

**County of San Diego Response to Grand Jury Report:
“Medical Credentials of Inmate Health Care Providers”
Issued May 17, 2007**

FINDINGS AND RESPONSES: *Related to the Probation Department:*

Finding: All 32 CFMG Registered Nurse (RN) licenses were verified with the Registered Nursing Board of California. All 32 licenses were renewed and current. No Licensing Board disciplinary actions were indicated on any license.

Response: Agree

Finding: The Grand Jury verified three physician’s licenses with the Medical Board of California. At the time of initial verification at the public disclosure website, one record revealed disciplinary action taken. A letter was sent to the Medical Board of California requesting a copy of the original accusation and final administrative disciplinary action. The physician in question had met the requirements of the Medical Board of California and had completed probation.

Response: Agree

Finding: One registered nurse’s license was verified with the Registered Nursing Board of California. At the time of the initial verification to the board this record revealed disciplinary action taken. A letter was sent to the Registered Nursing Board of California requesting a copy of the original accusation and final administrative disciplinary action. The RN in question had met all the requirements of the Board and completed probation.

Response: Agree

RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESPONSES:

The 2006-2007 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Probation Department:

Recommendation 07-52: Provide certification on an annual basis to the Board of Supervisors that the health services provided to detention facility inmates in his custody are being provided by individuals and organizations with the proper credentials.

Response: **The recommendation will not be implemented.** Clinical licenses are reviewed by program managers from both the physical health program and mental health program. These licenses are also reviewed by outside, independent auditors through the Title 15 audits, Institute for Medical Quality audits and Probation’s Quality Assurance Nurse.

The State of California is the regulatory body for the delivery of correctional health services and the State is responsible for issuing medical licenses through the State Licensing Board. As such,

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the State oversees, regulates and reviews the performance of medical services at County Probation facilities. In accordance with Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations, the State requires the County Public Health Division to perform annual audits at each facility with findings reported to the State. These audit findings are forwarded to the Probation Department for information and action as necessary. Should issues ever arise about the provision of health services to detention facility inmates, the County Board of Supervisors will be informed. However, by State regulation, the State of California is the appropriate entity for credentialing review and oversight.

Recommendation 07-53 (Probation): Establish Centralized Credentialing for all health care workers, requiring licenses or certificates, which meet standards comparable to the standards established by the National Committee on Quality Assurance (NCQA).

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented. As stated above, both County employees and outside, independent auditors already conduct various reviews of healthcare staff credentials.

The medical services provided at Probation facilities comply with the standards established by Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations. These standards are assured and enforced by the Correctional Standards Authority (CSA) of California through annual inspections that include the verification of credentials, licenses and certificates of all providers of health services. In addition, the Kearny Mesa and East Mesa Juvenile Detention Facilities are accredited by the California Medical Association's Institute for Medical Quality (IMQ) which reviews the credentialing of all health care providers. The IMQ accreditation remains in effect for two years. These State and IMQ standards are comparable to NCQA standards and are more specific to California juvenile detention facilities. Finally, the Probation Department employs a full-time Quality Assurance Nurse who independently verifies up-to-date credentialing of health care staff.

On April 17, 2007, the Board of Supervisors recognized the County Probation Department's medical services program for receiving the California Medical Association's Institute of Medical Quality accreditation award. The County of San Diego's Probation medical program is now one of only nine programs in the State that holds this accreditation.

Recommendation 07-54 (Probation): Obtain Credential Verification Organization certification from a nationally recognized medical credential specialist such as the National Committee on Quality Assurance (NCQA).

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented. The medical services provided at the Probation facilities meet the credentialing requirements of the State of California Title 15 Regulations, the California Medical Association's Institute for Medical Quality and the Probation Quality Assurance Nurse as outlined in the responses to recommendations 07-52 and 07-53. Credential verification systems are already in place at the Probation facilities as described above.